

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In keeping with the overall mission of Brevard College, the major in Religious Studies promotes an open-minded appreciation for the varied practices and beliefs of the Hebrew and Christian traditions as well as other religious and philosophical traditions. Students who graduate with a major in this discipline will be well-equipped to do the following:

1. understand the nature and significance of the beliefs and practices of various religious traditions;
2. articulate and defend personal positions on major questions of meaning and value, informed by insights from philosophical and religious traditions;
3. read and analyze primary and secondary source materials in philosophy and religious studies;
4. write with clarity and appropriate use of discipline-related documentation;
5. enter into graduate study in religion and/or related disciplines and/or lead productive professional lives.

With the assistance of their academic advisors, Religious Studies majors select the courses most appropriate to their intellectual interests and vocational aspirations from the options within distribution areas common to all majors (scriptural analysis; historical studies; philosophy, theology, and ethics; studies in religious diversity). Majors may further individualize their programs of study by selecting restricted elective courses within a personally-designed focus area (such as philosophy, diversity studies, biblical archaeology, etc.). Whether they choose to focus their study in this fashion or to sample more broadly, all majors complete a senior research methodologies seminar, a major portfolio, and a senior project or thesis.

### COMMON REQUIREMENTS 21 Semester Hours (including senior project/thesis)

Students pursuing the Major in Religious Studies must complete 21 hours of Major Requirements in Religion. This course work will include the following areas and semester hours: \*

Introductory Course in Religious Studies	3
Scriptural Analysis	3
Historical Studies	3
Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics	3
Studies in Religious Diversity	3
Humanities Research Methodologies	3
Senior project/thesis	3

*\*See below for detailed list of course options. Special topics courses (REL 290/390/490), internships (REL 360/469), and independent studies (REL 289/389/489) may be applied under various ones of these rubrics, depending upon their thematic focus.*

### REQUIRED MAJOR COURSES

21 Semester Hours

#### Introductory Course in Religious Studies

3 Semester Hours

Select one course:

REL 101	The Old Testament
REL 102	The New Testament
REL 111	Introduction to Religious Studies
REL 153	World Religions

#### Scriptural Analysis

3 Semester Hours

Select one course:

REL 210	Israelite and Christian Writings Outside the Bible
REL 256	Hinduism and Buddhism
REL 312	Jesus in the Gospels
REL 316	St. Paul

#### Historical Studies

3 Semester Hours

Select one course:

HIS 261	European Renaissance and Reformation History
HIS 312	Twentieth Century European Cultural and Intellectual History

REL 221	The Rise of Western Christendom
REL 241	Christianity in America's Past
REL 242	Religion in Contemporary America
REL 325	The Age of Reform: 1250-1550

**Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics**

**3 Semester Hours**

*Select one course:*

PHI 261	Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 262	Introduction to Ethics
PHI 282	Existential Literature
REL 268	Topics in Philosophy, Religion and Story
REL 278	Environmental Theology
REL 365	Philosophy of Religion

**Studies in Religious Diversity**

**3 Semester Hours**

*Select one course:*

REL 153	World Religions
REL 256	Hinduism and Buddhism
REL 270	New Religious Movements
REL 278	Environmental Theology
REL 288	Women and Religion
HIS 323	History of Southeastern Native Americans

**Research Methodologies and Senior Project/  
Thesis Requirement**

**6 Semester Hours**

All majors in Religious Studies must complete a senior project or thesis which can be either research or service in nature. The faculty in Religious Studies must approve the topic and nature of this project/thesis by the end of the student's first semester as a senior. Normally, the proposal for the project/thesis will be developed in conjunction with the divisional seminar in Humanities Research Methodologies, HUM 461, and will include a brief summary of the project, a bibliography and review of available literature in the topic area, and a statement of proposed methodology. The project or thesis itself should be completed by the tenth week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate, and presented in oral defense before faculty and students from the Humanities Division.

*Required courses:*

HUM 461	Humanities Research Methodologies	3
REL 495	Senior Thesis	3

**RESTRICTED ELECTIVES**

**18 Semester Hours**

*Choose six courses:*

Any PHI course not already being used to fulfill a required major area	
Any REL course not already being used to fulfill a required major area	
HIS 304	History of Modern Science
HUM 295	Classical Mythology

At least 6 of the 18 hours for restricted electives must be at the 300/400 level.

**TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED**

**MINIMUM 39 SEMESTER HOURS**

**PHILOSOPHY and the RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR**

Students who are particularly drawn to questions and issues of a philosophical nature can map out a philosophical focus area under the 39 hours of the Religious Studies Major requirements.

**SPECIALIZED CAREER PATHS**

Students wishing to pursue careers in Outdoor Ministries are encouraged to pursue the Major in Religious Studies with a minor in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education (see requirements listed under WLEE).

Students wishing to pursue careers in Religious Education are encouraged to pursue the Major in Religious Studies with a minor in Teacher Education.

Students wishing to pursue careers in Religious Counseling are encouraged to pursue a double major in Religious Studies and Psychology or a minor in Psychology.